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It's No Game, But We're Losing

Our Security Is 'Surprising'

By HENRY J. TAYLOR
ON FEBRUARY 27, 1964

— 11 long and decisive months ago, this column detailed Castro's push into Panama and said "his receiving agent, protector and cover there is the famous Panamanian Communist, Thelma King — vicious, relentless, competent."

On January 10, 1964 Thelma King personally led 1,000 rioters to the National Guard headquarters demanding weapons. Yet our government says the canal events were a surprise.

At least 70 known Castroites spearheaded the attack, of which about 40 recently visited Cuba, the Soviet Union and Red China. Among them, Cuba-trained Floyd Britton led the march on the Balboa High School and subsequent shooting of our ambushed troops. This is the same man, no less, who instigated the demonstrations against our Panama City embassy as long ago as 1955 and captained Castro's guerrilla assaults on interior Panamanian villages in 1959, an official of the Communist party. Surprise.

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VIRGINIA Ramires, the chief of Castro's women's affiliate, Carlos Nunez, Cleto and Ruben Souza, Jorge Turner, Victor Avila, Cesar Carrasquilla of the science faculty at the University of Panama and other such renegades who played important parts in the Castro infiltration of Latin American universities, detailed in a series written a year ago by this writer, all showed up in the January 10 assault.

Yet the State Department first told newsmen there were no immediate indications of a Castro or Communist tie-in and suggested an-

alysts play down any Sino-Soviet involvement to avoid disturbing U.S.-Soviet relations. In the sacred name of the security of the United States, what's going on here?

Relayed from Miami, newspaper office tickers recently rang with the rumor of Castro's assassination. The New York Times editors asked their Herbert Matthews to verify this. Matthews spoke by telephone directly with his contacts in the Havana hierarchy. They spiked it. Yet, astoundingly enough (it certainly astounded the editors of The New York Times) several hours later the Central Intelligence Agency tele-

phoned that newspaper saying our spy-shop was blacked-out in the matter and could The Times give Washington any information on the assassination subject.

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WRITING on the spot from Saigon, able Richard Starnes knocked in the head Washington's alibi insisting that the Diem regime represented our main difficulty in South Vietnam. So did Pulitzer Prize winner Marguerite Higgins. Now we see what we see in South Vietnam, too.

Meanwhile, most currently, official Washington sources admit they had "no advance

knowledge of Gen. Nguyen Khanh's Saigon coup," a well-planned exercise that within an hour-and-a-half jailed the November 2 regime we recognized after its palace killings. This leaves us where in South Vietnam along with the surprise backlash in Cambodia?

Famous Arab expert Wendell Phillips, author-explorer, told Washington officials the Red score in Zanzibar months ago, as he likewise told me. He knew the Castro-Sino-Soviet island hopping plans and also spelled out in detail what would happen in Tanganyika and elsewhere in East Africa. It has happened. Nevertheless, the State Department calls all this also a surprise.

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NOW, THIS isn't a sandlot ball game we're playing in around the world, repeatedly getting tagged out at first base and falling flat on our face. Our entire future is at stake. And the incredible pattern of official misinformation and surprises and the endless denials of the undeniable would be utterly impossible unless the Soviet had infiltrated our government, as proven in numerous other Western countries.

Along with our failures, President Johnson faces the successes of treachery although he naturally and decently loathes to believe it, as were Adenauer and Macmillan. May all intelligent citizens and thoughtful newspapers help give him complete support against the enemy's automatic shout of "which hunt" as he confronts the grim, diabolic truth. For this nation is in absolute peril — within Washington.

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